

The days of study have not yet ended. *Dud Pratt* just received his M.B.A. from the University of Hawaii after four years of extra hour study. *Carl Klemme* has come to Cambridge to attend the advanced management program at Harvard for 13 weeks this fall.

Sidney Hughes responded to the request for news with a calling card containing the following titles: Treasurer, Yum Sing Society; Les Doigts de Seigneur, Stem-Holders League, Tin Ear, Three M Society; Bon Voyageur; and Ambiance Chaser. Further inquiry elicited the information that the Yum Sing Society explores "what we believe to be the best food now in New York, Chinese cooking," while the Stem-Holders League seeks "to get people to hold their champagne and martini glasses by the stems, and not warm them up by clutching them in their hot hands." Sid's card also included the category of "Deltiologist," and there will be a free drink at the next class gathering for the first member who fathoms that addition.

The news is not exhausted, but I am. I'll hope to see many of you in New Haven on November 20.

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This past summer we have witnessed one of the significant turning points in our time—the beginning of the so-called Ping-Pong diplomacy and the President's stunning announcement of his decision to visit Peking. These affect us, to be sure, as U.S. citizens. But as members of the Class of '51, we are affected in a very close and personal way through our classmate, *Jack Downey*.

What's included here was written prior to the President's announcement. But the following reports are even more fascinating viewed in an historical perspective. Thus *Jerry Cohen*, professor of law at Harvard, wrote in the July 7 edition of *The New York Times*:

"NEW HAVEN—The class of 1951 has just held its 20th Reunion at Yale but Jack Downey wasn't there. Jack and an assistant, Richard Fecteau, have been in prison in China since Nov. 29, 1952.

"In late 1954 the Supreme People's Court in Peking announced that the two Americans had been convicted of espionage for secretly air-dropping supplies and agents into China as part of a C.I.A. effort to foment rebellion. Four of the Chinese agents were executed. Downey was sentenced to life, and Fecteau got twenty years.

"The U.S. called the convictions 'a most flagrant violation of justice' based upon 'trumped-up charges.' The men, it was said, were actually 'civilians employed by the Department of the Army,' who had never invaded China's airspace but had been lost on a routine flight from Korea to Japan.

"Sino-American negotiations in 1955 led to the release of most other Americans held in China. Early in 1957 China offered to release Downey and Fecteau if the U.S. would allow American newsmen to visit China. Secretary Dulles refused to approve the arrangement because it would constitute yielding to Chinese 'blackmail.'

"Since then, for almost fifteen years, the U.S. has quietly sought the release of Downey and Fecteau. But it has never admitted the truth of China's assertions. Yet many members of the Class of '51 recall the day, several months before graduation, when a representative of the then newly formed C.I.A. visited New Haven to recruit Yale seniors who were concerned about what the Korean conflict held in store for them. The man was very vague about the kind of work the recruits would enter. Finally he indicated, 'purely as a hypothetical,' that 'the agency' might want to organize resistance in China. Jack Downey and some others ended up doing exactly what the 'hypothetical' mission called for.

"None of this is news to China, of course. In this country our Government's persistent denials have occasionally been challenged by

scholars and journalists. Yet the U.S. has thus far refused to repudiate Mr. Dulles' posturing about international law.

"Perhaps one can understand the reluctance to confess error in the case of Fecteau, who is scheduled for release in little more than a year. But Downey is serving a life sentence. The suicide last year of Hugh Redmond, another American serving a life term for espionage in China, should remind us that even the bravest souls can endure only so much.

"We should not assume that China is insensitive to either political or humanitarian considerations in this last case of Americans detained since the 1950's. Shortly after Redmond's death, Peking released the elderly Bishop James Walsh before his sentence had run its course. But Peking remains sensitive about American attacks that slander the administration of justice in China as uncivilized and deny China the same right to self-defense that other states enjoy.

"Now that table tennis has introduced 'people to people' diplomacy, the prospects for Downey's release may well brighten if the U.S. will admit that it violated China's territorial integrity during a bygone wartime era, apologize for having done so and recognize China's sovereign right to punish offenses against its security.

"If the U.S. opposes making individuals the pawns of power politics, it should abandon its preoccupation with 'face,' as it did in the much more ambiguous case of the Pueblo, and set the record straight. Otherwise Jack Downey may not make our 25th Reunion."

We might add that Jerry is the recent co-author of a remarkable book on American business called: *America, Inc.* It is a fascinating, thought-provoking and challenging book. We recommend it highly and extend our congratulations to Jerry on its publication and its excellent reviews.

Our thanks to *Al Peters* for sending the article to us. He wrote: "*Put Westerfield* feels that this should be included in our Post-Reunion Directory, which was not possible due to space limitations. Accordingly, I wonder if it would not be a good idea to include the article in our YAM classnotes..."

It was indeed a good idea, because as you will see from this column, the prime concern of the Class right now is Jack Downey.

Harry Henriques sent us the following article from the *Greenwich paper*.

"WASHINGTON (AP)—With attention sharply riveted on the plight of American prisoners in North Vietnam, an older problem of U.S. citizens held on the mainland of China is resurfacing, although its focus is slightly fuzzy.

"The situation . . . came up last week during Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings on U.S.-China policy. Sen. J.W. Fulbright asked Harvard University law professor Jerome Cohen his thinking on the prisoners.

"Cohen indicated not enough was being done regarding the two civilians, John Thomas Downey and Richard Fecteau, and new efforts should be made to secure their release.

"... Cohen suggested a possible answer to freeing Downey and Fecteau might be in a new investigation of the charges made by the Chinese. He said John Foster Dulles . . . took the position that the charges were 'trumped-up.' But this is a different era," Cohen told the Committee, "and it might be appropriate for the U.S. to make another inquiry into the case.

"If the facts justify it," he added, "the U.S. should admit the Chinese charges and pay whatever the price to secure their release."

"... The committee says it is preparing a letter to the State Department suggesting the United States consider action along the lines suggested by Cohen.

"When asked its current position, the State Department provided a letter it sends to those inquiring about the prisoners.

"The imprisonment of these Americans is a source of continuing sadness and frustration," the letter said.

"The letter cited certain efforts taken by the department. However, the department letter said, 'attempting to obtain the release of these men is a very difficult matter and the leverage available to us is limited.'"

You'll remember that last year we published a letter from Jack Downey to the

cient effort and imagination were going the efforts to obtain Jack's release.

Put Westerfield, who has been on the line 'lo, these many years and whose effort behalf of Jack have been devoted and uning, replied to Joe thusly:

"As Jack's roommate at Choate and (seven years!) and as acting coordinat all our efforts to get him released, I a ciate all suggestions and above all, Please let me dissuade you from the f that nothing is being done. . . . The Ca angle has been used to the hilt, and is All principals of government have been sonally called upon and the letter-writing pain continues assiduously. . . . Third try approaches have been made contin We're working through the Chinese emb in London and Ottawa, and through a dividuals going to China and returning there who might have some influence.

"It does appear, however, that Jack not be released until Washington is willi admit that China acted properly under national law. We continue to insult the nese and this is getting Jack nowhere.

"Also important to realize are the fet of Jack's family. His brother and mother been to Peking four times, last in 1964. are expecting another visa daily and de want to rock the boat. They quite rightly not participate in any publicity, and beg no demonstrations of any kind be held.

"It does appear right to deal quietly hind the scenes with the powers that powers in all institutions from governme church, from business to sport, etc.

"It's best that we act individually and encourage classmates and friends to act Best, Put."

It doesn't take much reading between lines to feel the anguish in Put's letter disappointment and frustration he has countered in more than 15 years of uning effort. We might suggest to one o sensitive and enterprising journalists in Class that Put's efforts in behalf of J freedom would make a remarkable and ing story. Failing that, the least we can d a Class, is to express our profound ad tion for Put and our gratitude for all he's d

Joe Ryan had occasion to phone Ray a month or so ago at the White House ar asked if Ray had ever spoken to the h dent about Jack. Ray, of course, has t guarded in any replies to enquiries coning the President, but he did allow as hov topic might have come up.

We hope and pray that one result o President's bold new diplomacy will be ff and the other Americans' release.

Speaking of *Put Westerfield*, it's only fi to add this postscript: On July 15, Put elected a vice-president of Time, Inc. He you know, the publisher of *Fortune*.

Jack Lind wrote us this letter on July 9:

"Last night I returned from our Reu a memorable occasion by any standard. tonight I read the June issue of the YA, mixed bag by my standards as far as the notes are concerned. *Jerry Flashner's* vi concerning *Jack Downey* were well receive all. For the information of all who were able to attend the Reunion, let me report: *Put Westerfield* opened the Class Dinner: day night with a report on Jack and nounced that letters to the Senators of d pre-registered returning classmate had e prepared and were available in pre-stan pre-addressed envelopes at Reunion F quarters. A majority of them were signed are on their way. The remainder have l mailed to those who did not sign them the weekend. The letters call for the relea Jack and the three other citizens who re prisoners in China. A copy will be includ the Class Directory which will be ser everyone shortly. After reading it, some may wish to do as I did and add a plea apologize to the Chinese for the incident which Jack was imprisoned. Without suc apology, many of us feel we will never Jack again."

Lind, never one to let an offense lightly, added this note:

"And while we are on the subject of a gizing, let's consider the case of *Put No* described in the June notes as one who wielded a quick stick and tossed a fast a good classmate and good f